

**PEOPLES NATURAL GAS
CO.**

IOWA

EPA ID# IAD980852578

EPA Region 7

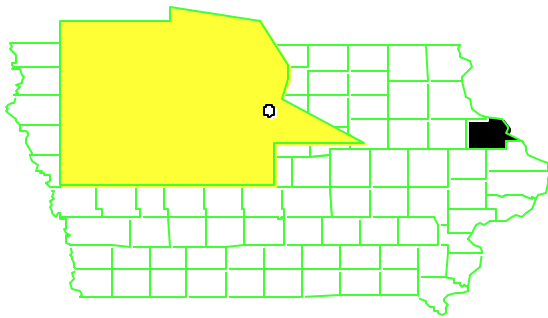
City: East Dubuque

County: Dubuque County

Other Names:

Key City Coal Gasification Plant

09/03/2002



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Peoples Natural Gas Co. site is located in Dubuque and covers approximately 5 acres. From 1890 until 1954, the Key City Gas Company owned and operated this gas plant, where a natural gas substitute was produced from coal. In 1954, the North Central Public Service Company took over operations until 1957, when Peoples Natural Gas Company assumed ownership of the site. Peoples used the site as a storage and maintenance area and did not manufacture gas. It later sold a portion of the site to the City of Dubuque, which operates the Dubuque Municipal Garage on the site. The Iowa Department of Transportation owns the remainder of the site. Two waste products resulting from coal gasification are of primary concern: coal tar sludges and spent iron oxide. Coal tar sludges were produced during the coal or coke combustion and during the oil injection processes, and spent iron oxide wastes were produced during the gas purification process. Spent iron oxide wastes, removed from the three gas cleaning boxes (purifiers), were dumped behind two gas holding tanks on site at least twice a year. Spent iron oxide and other wastes were deposited in the northeastern section of the site. Coal tars were removed from the gas in the wash box and condenser. These wastes either were sold or disposed of in pits or holding tanks. Two coal tar waste storage tanks were used at the Key City plant, one aboveground and one below. Both tanks have since been removed. Evidence of materials left in the underground tank, as well as migration of waste out of the tank, is supported by a study done by the Iowa Department of Transportation in 1983 while conducting a right-of-way survey for the proposed extension of U.S. Highway 61. An estimated 60,000 people obtain drinking water from municipal wells located within 3 miles of the site. Approximately 2,400 people live within a mile of the site, and 21,000 people live within 3 miles. The Mississippi River is approximately 500 feet east of the site. Surface water downstream is used for industrial and recreational activities. A wildlife and fish refuge is 2 miles

downstream, and wetlands are located within 1/2 mile of the site.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 06/24/1988

Final Date: 08/30/1990

Deleted Date:

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

Phenols, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and inorganic chemicals from the gasification process wastes were detected by the State in on-site wells. Soil samples collected at the site in 1983 also contained phenols, PAHs, and inorganic chemicals. Accidental ingestion of or direct contact with contaminated soil or groundwater may pose health threats to individuals. No private drinking water wells have been identified in the area. The wetlands and the wildlife and fish refuge may be threatened by runoff from the site.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status



Initial Actions: Immediate Actions: Under EPA oversight, the potentially responsible parties removed the contaminated coal tar sludges and soils containing contaminants above health-based standards from within the construction corridor for U.S. Highway 61. Off-site incineration of these soils has been completed.

Site Studies: Soil and Groundwater: An investigation into the nature and extent of groundwater and soil contamination was completed by the potentially responsible parties



in 1991. A final cleanup remedy that prescribes excavation and incineration of contaminated soils, and pumping and treating contaminated groundwater was selected by EPA in 1991. Restrictions on land and groundwater use also will be implemented. Design of the remedy was completed in early 1994. Excavation of contaminated soils from the remaining portions of the site was initiated in the spring of 1995 and is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1997.

Site Facts:

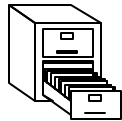
The EPA signed an Administrative Order on Consent with Midwest Gas (of Iowa Public Service, a successor corporation of Key City Gas Co.), the Iowa Department of Transportation, and the City of Dubuque in 1989. The Order required the parties to remove or treat any contaminated soil. It also required completion of an investigation to determine the need for treatment of residual soil and for groundwater treatment. The EPA signed a Consent Decree with Midwest Gas, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the City of Dubuque, and Enron on December 28, 1992, requiring the parties to conduct the design of the remedy and cleanup activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



By removing contaminated coal tar sludges and soils, the potential for exposure to hazardous materials at the People's Natural Gas Co. site has been reduced while final cleanup activities continue.

SITE REPOSITORY



Carnegie Stout Public Library, Eleventh
and Bluff, Dubuque, IA 52001

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-4038

REGIONAL CONTACTS

SITE MANAGER:

Diana Engeman

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR: Beckie Himes

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STATE CONTACT:

PHONE NUMBER:

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

PACIFIC ISLAND(S):

07BP

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

02

EPA ORGANIZATION:

SFD-IANE/SUPR

MODIFICATIONS